

---

## THREE UALBANY PRESENTERS SPONSOR NEW SERIES



# Artist to Artist

*Addressing This Moment*

After working collaboratively for three years on The Creative Life series (on hiatus this season), the University Art Museum, NYS Writers Institute and UAlbany Performing Arts Center have created a new virtual series for Fall 2020. **Artist to Artist: Addressing This Moment** brings together artists whose work has been previously presented at UAlbany for conversations about the arts in this time of the coronavirus pandemic, a reckoning on systemic racism, and civil unrest. Three segments will air on the Writers Institute YouTube channel -- [youtube.com/NYSWritersInstitute](https://youtube.com/NYSWritersInstitute) -- in October and November and each will feature an informal conversation between a visual artist, a writer, and a performer, combining powerful voices and compelling artistic practices that speak to our current challenges.

History has shown that artists can illuminate and be influential in challenging times. The goal of these artist-to-artist conversations is to shine a guiding light on difficult issues, share perspectives that could potentially lead to tangible solutions, and demonstrate the need for respect, empathy, inclusivity and basic humanity, all at the core of creative works of art and which are much needed in today's society. The series addresses an urgent need for social and cultural dialogue in which we can all purposefully pause and connect.

Each pre-recorded segment will be approximately one hour in length and will be available at no charge for use by faculty and accessible to the campus community and general public.

---

The airing dates and guest artists in each segment are as follows:

### Thursday, October 22

**Baseera Khan** is a Brooklyn-based artist and Muslim American who sublimates colonial histories through performance and sculpture in order to map geographies of the future. Khan exhibited at the University Art Museum in 2019 as part of the show *ACE: art on sports, promise and selfhood*.

**Nassim Soleimanpour** is an Iranian playwright, theatre maker, performer and artistic director of a Berlin-based theatre company. Soleimanpour's works have been translated into more than 30 languages and performed globally in over 50 countries. His play *White Rabbit, Red Rabbit* had a nine-month off-Broadway run. It graced the stage at UAlbany with five performances in October of 2013.

**Damon Young** is a journalist, humorist and author of *What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Blacker*, a memoir about surviving in a world where "existing while Black is an extreme sport." He is also senior editor for The Root and co-founder and editor-in-chief of the online magazine, VerySmartBrothas. Young visited UAlbany in February 2020 as part of the Writers Institute's Visiting Writers Series.

### Thursday, November 5

**Ping Chong** is an American contemporary theater director, choreographer, video and installation artist. Ping Chong + Company produces works addressing the important cultural and civic issues of our times with the greatest level of artistic innovation and social integrity. Chong's company visited UAlbany in October 2018 and presented two performances of "Beyond Sacred: Voices of Muslim Identity."

**Alex Bradley Cohen** is a Chicago-based artist employing the language of modernist painting to explore themes such as play, culture, identity, hip-hop and the intimate relationship between artist and sitter. Cohen exhibited at the University Art Museum in 2018 as part of the 3-person show *Triple* alongside work by Tschabalala Self and Louis Fratino.

**Ibi Zoboi** is the author of the powerful YA novel-in-verse, *Punching the Air*, about a boy who is wrongfully incarcerated and was co-written with prison reform activist Yusef Salaam of the Exonerated Five. She is also the author of *Pride, My Life as an Ice Cream Sandwich* and the National Book Award finalist *American Street*. Ibi visited UAlbany in February 2019 to discuss her edited anthology *Black Enough: Stories of Being Young & Black in America*.

### Thursday, November 19

**Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah**, a 2013 University at Albany graduate, is the author of the New York Times bestselling short story collection, *Friday Black*, a satirical look at what it's like to be young and black in America. *Friday Black* won the PEN/Jean Stein Book Award and bestselling author Roxane Gay called it, "dark and captivating and essential... A call to arms and a condemnation." Adjei-Brenyah visited UAlbany in October 2018 as part of the Writers Institute's Visiting Writers Series.

**Jade Solomon Curtis** is a dance artist and choreographer. Curtis's work integrates classical and African-American vernacular movements with mixed-media and hip hop culture. She collaborates with innovative artists to create socially relevant, multi-discipline work. Her signature piece "Black Like Me" had three performances at UAlbany in October 2019 as part of the University-wide 400 Years of Inequality Observance.

**Ashley Teamer** is a New Orleans based multimedia artist. Her dynamic wall-works employ painting and collage materials such as WNBA trading cards and a variety of sports imagery to explore Black femininity, athleticism, and community. Teamer exhibited at the University Art Museum in 2019 as part of the show *ACE: art on sports, promise and selfhood*.

Additional information on the series and links to the segments can be found at [albany.edu/arts/](http://albany.edu/arts/)

*Support for the Artist to Artist series is provided by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.*

#####

**Media Contacts:** Christine Snyder, University Art Museum, 518-442-4035, [museum@albany.edu](mailto:museum@albany.edu)  
Michael Huber, NYS Writers Institute, 518-437-3969, [mhuber@albany.edu](mailto:mhuber@albany.edu)  
Kim Engel, UAlbany Performing Arts Center, 518-442-5738, [kengel@albany.edu](mailto:kengel@albany.edu)

**About the University at Albany:** A comprehensive public research university, the University at Albany offers more than 120 undergraduate majors and minors and 125 master's, doctoral, and graduate certificate programs. UAlbany is a leader among all New York State colleges and universities in such diverse fields as atmospheric and environmental sciences, business, engineering and applied sciences, informatics, public administration social welfare, and sociology taught by an extensive roster of faculty experts. It also offers expanded academic and research opportunities for students through an affiliation with Albany Law School. With a curriculum enhanced by 600 study-abroad opportunities, UAlbany launches great careers.

The University Art Museum, NYS Writers Institute and UAlbany Performing Arts Center are all based at UAlbany. Individually and collectively, the three presenters strive to offer programming that reflects the diversity and inclusion of the UAlbany community and to provide an equitable forum of voices that enrich the academic experience and are of interest to the general populace of the Capital Region and beyond.